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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/785,205	02/24/2004	David Forehand	MEM 2657002	8842
21909	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER ROJAS, BERNARD	
CARR LLP 670 FOUNDERS SQUARE 900 JACKSON STREET DALLAS, TX 75202			ART UNIT 2832	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/785,205

Applicant(s)

FOREHAND

Examiner

Bernard Rojas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-16, 19-23 and 31-37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 17, 18, 24-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 7-16, 19 and 31-37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 10/03/05.

Applicant's election with traverse of Embodiment 1 - claims 1-6, 17, 18 and 24-30 in the reply filed on 10/03/05 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the Examiner has not given reasons for the restriction. This is not found persuasive because a motivation for the requirement to elect a species for prosecution was provided. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 106 and 204. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action

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to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 17, 18, 24-26 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ma [US 6,529,093].

Claim 1, Ma discloses a microscopic switch, comprising: a substrate [515], wherein is at least configured to support the switch; a conductive beam [503], wherein the conductive beam is at least configured to be suspended with one free end; means for engaging [507], wherein the means for engaging at least engages the conductive beam to allow signal transmission [signal line 505]; and at least one tether [513],

wherein the at least one tether is at least configured to be attached to the substrate and attached to the conductive beam [figure 5].

Claim 2, Ma discloses that the apparatus further comprises means for insulation [511], wherein the means for insulation at least provides a non-conductive barrier between the conductive beam and at least one electrode when the microscope switch is engaged [figure 5C].

Claim 6, Ma discloses that the apparatus further comprises an ohmic contact when the microscopic switch is engaged [figures 5C, 503 is connected to 505 through 509].

Claims 17 and 18, the method steps of operating the microscopic switch are inherent in the product structure as previously described for claims 1 and 2

Claim 24, Ma discloses a cantilever MEMS switch comprising a tether [513] having at least two ends, wherein a first end of the tether is at least coupled to a substrate, and wherein, a second end of the tether is at least coupled to the a cantilever arm [figure 5A].

Claim 25, Ma discloses that the substrate is at least configured to be non-conductive [col. 3 lines 40-46].

Claim 26, Ma discloses that the apparatus further comprises means for insulation [511], wherein the means for insulation at least provides a non-conductive barrier when the microscope switch is engaged [figure 5C].

Claim 30, Ma discloses that the apparatus further comprises an ohmic contact when the microscopic switch is engaged [figures 5C, 503 is connected to 505 through 509].

Claims 1-3 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nelson [US 6,529,093].

Claim 1, Nelson discloses a microscopic switch, comprising: a substrate [22], wherein is at least configured to support the switch; a conductive beam [32], wherein the conductive beam is at least configured to be suspended with one free end; means for engaging [24, 26 and 28], wherein the means for engaging at least engages the conductive beam to allow signal transmission [signal line 28]; and at least one tether [support section above 34], wherein the at least one tether is at least configured to be attached to the substrate and attached to the conductive beam [figure 5].

Claim 2, Nelson discloses that the apparatus further comprises means for insulation [air gap between the electrodes 24 and 26 and the conductive beam 32], wherein the means for insulation at least provides a non-conductive barrier between the conductive beam and at least one electrode when the microscope switch is engaged [figure 5a].

Claim 3, Nelson discloses that the means for insulation further comprise air [figure 5a].

Claim 24, Nelson discloses a cantilever MEMS switch comprising a tether [support section above 34] having at least two ends, wherein a first end of the tether is

at least coupled to a substrate, and wherein, a second end of the tether is at least coupled to the a cantilever arm [figure 3].

Claim 25, Nelson discloses that the substrate is at least configured to be non-conductive [col. 6 lines 35-46].

Claim 26, Nelson discloses that the apparatus further comprises means for insulation [air gap between the electrodes 24 and 26 and the conductive beam 32], wherein the means for insulation at least provides a non-conductive barrier when the microscope switch is engaged [figure 5a].

Claim 27, Nelson discloses that the means for insulation further comprise air [figure 5a].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma [US 6,529,093] in view of DeReus [US 6,876,482].

Claims 4 and 28, Ma discloses the claimed invention except that the insulation comprises Silicon Oxide.

DeReus discloses that Silicon Oxide is a dielectric material [col. 8 lines 45-60].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Silicon Oxide as the dielectric material, since applicant has not disclosed that using Silicon Oxide solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any dielectric as is disclosed by Ma.

Claims 5 and 29, Ma discloses the claimed invention except that the insulation comprises Silicon Nitride.

DeReus discloses that Silicon Nitride is a dielectric material [col. 8 lines 45-60].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Silicon Nitride as the dielectric material, since applicant has not disclosed that using Silicon Nitride solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any dielectric as is disclosed by Ma.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Rojas whose telephone number is (571) 272-1998. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:00), every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin G. Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brenda R. Ryan
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[Signature]
SPG-AN2832
12/12/05